

in office, and that he was entirely unable to quell the insurrection. I have, I need hardly say, a horror of putting what is in effect a premium upon insurrection by letting the insurrectionists receive benefit from their action; but Palma's utter weakness—or, to speak with literal exactness, his impotence—to do anything effective toward quelling the revolt (for I treat as of less moment the undoubted and gross misbehavior of the party in power at the last election) made it absolutely imperative that I should take some step unless I wished to see chaos come in the island.

"Of course if I had announced, as Mr. Bryan advised, that under no circumstances would I use armed force; or if, as Foraker desires, I had stated I could take no action until Congress decided what to do—just imagine my following the Buchanan-like course of summoning Congress for a six weeks' debate by Bacon, John Sharp Williams, and Tillman as to whether I ought to land marines to protect American life and property—the fighting would have gone on without a break, the whole island would now be a welter of blood. Of course our permanent policy toward the island must depend absolutely upon the action of Congress, no matter what construction is given the Platt Amendment. Congress has nothing to do but to refuse appropriations to put it into effect, and the Platt Amendment vanishes into air, and any stay of marines and troops in the island becomes impossible.

"Equally of course, I should be ashamed to look anybody in the face if I hesitated to take

important measures
to try to secure peace, if necessary by landing
sailors and
marines or even troops, so as to try to
reestablish some
government in Cuba and keep the island so
far as possible
in decent condition until Congress meets,
when it can itself
take action.

"I hope that we shall not have to intervene in
any permanent form at present, and that we can simply
make temporary arrangements to keep order until an
election can be
held and a new government or modified
government started.
I am inclined to think that, thanks to the
fact that I have